

Appl. No. 10/647,170
AMENDMENT FILED CONCOMITANT WITH RCE

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 (amended) is combined with claim 5 as originally filed. Claim 6 (amended) is combined with claim 10 as originally filed. Claim 11 (amended) is supported by the description on page 11, lines 4-6 (item 2-6) of the specification. Claim 12 (amended) is supported by the description on page 13, lines 15-17 (item 3-6) of the specification.

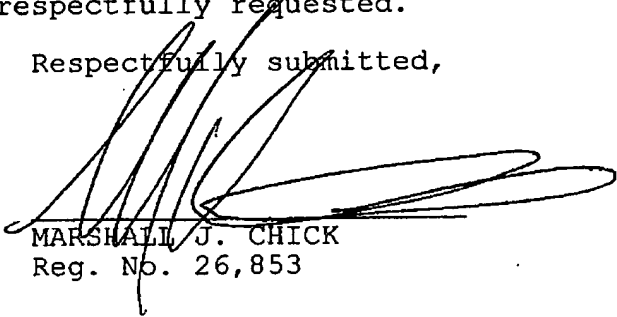
In the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith or Sasaki et al. in combination with Hirai (USP 6,846,074).

Because the present application was filed before the publication date of Hirai, Hirai is a reference only as defined under 35 USC 102(e). Since the present application and Hirai were commonly owned at the time the inventions were made and are still commonly owned, Hirai is disqualified as a reference for the purposes of an obviousness rejection.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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